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March 13, 2019

VIA EMAIL

Courtney Copenhagen
Courtney.Copenhagen@nbcuni.com

Re: FOIA Request dated 3/13/19

Dear Ms. Copenhagen:

I am responding to the request for documents under the Illinois Freedom of Information Act ("FOIA") statute that was received by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office (the "SAO") on March 13, 2019 via e-mail.

You have asked for: *[A]ll electronic communications, emails and text messages from Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx regarding actor Jussie Smollett, between the dates of February 1, 2019 and February 21, 2019*

Responsive records are attached.

Please be advised a personal phone number was redacted pursuant to Section 7(1)(b) of FOIA. 5 ILCS 140/7(1)(b) exempts from disclosure, "private information." Private information is defined in Section 2(c-5) as, "...unique identifiers, including a person's social security number, driver's license number, employee identification number, biometric identifiers, personal financial information, passwords or other access codes, medical records, home or personal telephone numbers, and personal emails addresses. Private information also includes home address and personal license plates, except as otherwise provided by law or when compiled without possibility of attribution to any person." 5 ILCS 140/2(c-5). Therefore, personal phone numbers are exempt pursuant to Section 7(1)(b) and were properly redacted.

The SAO has also redacted the name and identifiers of Smollett's relative pursuant to Section 7(1)(c), on the basis that an invasion of privacy brought by release of the information, which may lead to undue embarrassment, harassment, or unwanted public attention upon purely private individuals, outweighs any legitimate public interest in obtaining the information.

You have a right to appeal this decision to Sarah Pratt, Public Access Counselor, Office of the Illinois Attorney General, 500 S. 2nd Street, Springfield, Illinois 62706, (phone number 1-877-299-FOIA) or to seek judicial review under Section 11 of FOIA, 5 ILCS 140/11 (2017).

Sincerely,

s/Chloe K. Rasmus

Chloe K. Rasmus
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